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Development:

Park and Garage at Post Office Square is comprised of a 1.7 acre public park at street level, and a 1,400-car, seven-level underground parking garage, built on the site of a former above-ground parking garage owned by the City of Boston.

Location:

At the center of Boston's financial district, bounded by Milk, Congress, Franklin and Pearl Streets.

Owner/Developer:

Park and Garage at Post Office Square is a public/private venture of the City of Boston and Friends of Post Office Square, Inc.

Friends of Post Office Square, Inc. is a civic corporation made up of 20 Boston firms and individuals who have a strong interest in improving the Post Office Square district, and who together contributed \$1 million to launch the project.

Proceeds from the garage development will be distributed to the City of Boston and its Park Trust Fund for the maintenance of the city's neighborhood parks.

Project Milestones:

Friends of Post Office Square, Inc. formed in 1983

Construction Start: October 1, 1988

Project Completion: Garage: October 1, 1990

Park: September, 1991

Cost:

Approximately \$ 80 million, including the park and garage.

**Board of Directors,
Friends of Post Office Square:**

Norman B. Leventhal, Chairman

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Friends of Post Office Square:

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Paul McGinn, General Manager

Robert B. Anthonyson, Project Manager

Ann M. Beyer, Administrative Assistant

**Mayor's 1987 Design
Review Committee:**

Norman B. Leventhal, The Beacon Companies

Sere Clark, Staff Director, New England Telephone

John P. Connolly, Mayor's Development Advisor, City of Boston

Joan E. Goody, Partner, Goody, Clancy & Associates, Inc.

Elizabeth Harris, Owner, Liz Harris Gallery

Yu Sing Jung, President, Jung/Brannen Associates, Inc.

Charlotte Kahn, former Director, Boston Urban Gardeners

Justine Liff, Director of Planning and Development, Boston Parks and Recreation Department

Bart J. Mitchell, Equity Marketing Manager, The Community Builders

Edwin B. Morris, III, Former Vice President, Bank of Boston

Shirley M. Muirhead, Director of Landscape Design, Boston

Redevelopment Authority

Master Planning Consultant:	Skidmore, Owings & Merrill of New York, NY (developed competition kit and program for garage and park with the client)
Park Design:	The Halvorson Company, Inc., Landscape Architects, Boston, MA Craig C. Halvorson, PIC Cynthia W. Smith, Assistant Project Director and Art Coordinator Charles P. Kozlowski, Project Landscape Architect and Production Coordinator, ; Sarah A. Forrester, Trudi Hoffman, Robert R. Uhlig, Project Staff,
Park Structures:	Ellenzweig Associates, Inc., Architects, Cambridge, MA
Civil Engineering:	Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc., Engineers, Boston, MA
Fountain Consultants:	CMS Collaborative, Carmel, CA
Irrigation:	Eastern Irrigation Company, Pepperel, MA
Artists:	Fountain sculptures by Howard Ben Tre, Providence, RI Ornamental fence and drain grates, Richard Duca, Gloucester, MA and The Halvorson Company Trellis lighting by Ross Miller, Boston, MA
Garage Consultants:	Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc., Engineers, Boston, MA, prime consultant, with Ellenzweig Associates, Inc. Architects, Cambridge, MA LeMessurier Consultants, Inc., Structural Engineers, Cambridge, MA Piscentini Associates, Mechanical/Electrical Engineers, Cambridge, MA
General Contractor:	J.F. White Contracting Co., Newton, MA (for both garage and park)
Landscape Contractor:	Schumacher Landscaping Inc, South Natick, MA

The design scheme for Post Office Square Park seeks to create a major new public open space for Boston's financial district, and a compelling new downtown green space—one that is rich in detail and visual interest, that recognizes the area's architectural heritage, and that provides welcome relief and contrast to the dense urban fabric surrounding the park. Finally, the park design is both functional and realistic for the city to build and maintain for decades to come. The design team's concept follows closely the tenets of the careful and detailed program laid out by the client.

Design Framework

Embracing the European and American traditions of great passive urban parks, Post Office Square Park is a garden for all seasons. The park design is predominantly open lawn on the ground plane with an over-story canopy of large deciduous trees. Clear sight lines are established into Post Office Square Park from surrounding streets, with focal elements on axis with park entrances to arouse curiosity and draw people in. Walls are confined to the park's interior and serve as path edges and seating, while lower curbs and lawn at the periphery permit broad views in and allow the park to be enjoyed by passersby. These permeable edges also have the effect of increasing security within the park.

Two plazas located at each end of the park provide major focal elements; these are reinforced with special features to draw people into these spaces. The primary architectural features within the park are two garden pavilions located in the South Plaza. These two glass and copper structures are styled as classic garden pavilions, and house pedestrian access to the underground garage and a year-round cafe. They are well located to receive patrons at the southeastern edge of the park, where the highest volume of office workers travel to and from the Square. At the center of the North Plaza is a major water feature/sculpture, located on axis to One Post Office Square. A garden trellis connects these two plazas, providing a shaded promenade. This trellis forms a backdrop to the central lawn area and doubles as a stage and performance space.

Urban Design

From an urban design context, both the client and design team conceived of Post Office Square Park as a new centerpiece and identity for the triangular-shaped area known as Post Office Square. With the demolition of the old city garage, a new urban open space could integrate and define this key section in the heart of the financial district. The original park design program statement makes this clear. A contextual design solution for the park was desired; and it needed to create a lively, cohesive urban open space at the pedestrian level that did not exist before, consisting of the new park, the existing Angell Memorial Park at the apex of the triangle, and the bordering streetscapes.

To aid in the urban design process, the Friends of Post Office Square commissioned two studies during the early park design phases to identify opportunities for improving the urban environment surrounding the park, and for enhancing the neighboring streetscapes. The Halvorson Company developed urban design guidelines and recommendations for the Post Office Square district streetscapes, while Prellwitz/Chilinski Architects, Inc. analyzed the opportunities for new or enhanced ground floor retail architecture and activity. Post Office Square Park design and detailing support the guidelines established in these studies. A number of building owners facing Post Office Square Park have also undertaken improvements or have begun planning efforts that reinforce the recommendations for revitalization and redefinition of the entire

Post Office Square district. For example, Net England Telephone commissioned Goody, Clancy & Associates, Inc. with The Halvorson Company to propose architectural and streetscape improvements for their headquarters building, and construction is nearly completed on this project.

Several themes in the design of the park help to reinforce the relationship of Post Office Square Park and the adjacent Angell Memorial Park as a single, triangular open space. Throughout the park, rich plantings and low seating walls help define a functional circulation pattern that provides pedestrian connections between both parks and the adjacent urban streets. Paving extends beyond the park's boundaries to enrich perimeter sidewalks and link the new park to Angell Memorial. Strong curvilinear forms expressed in the seating walls and curbs also provide continuity between the two parks, as well as sculptural interest both within the park and from offices above.

Throughout the park design, paving materials, site furnishings and park details were influenced by the City of Boston and its rich vernacular, and the immediate neighborhood of the Financial District in particular. For example, steel benches similar to those in Angell Memorial Park have been chosen as part of the park's seating design scheme. Together with traditional cast iron light poles and bases, they incorporate important components of Boston's streetscape and park vocabulary into the park. Brick paving patterns and granite curbing and bollards are equally familiar and welcome elements in the new park. The major structures in the park, including the pavilions, trellis and fountain sculptures, all embody classical architectural styles appropriate to the urban context.

Planting Design

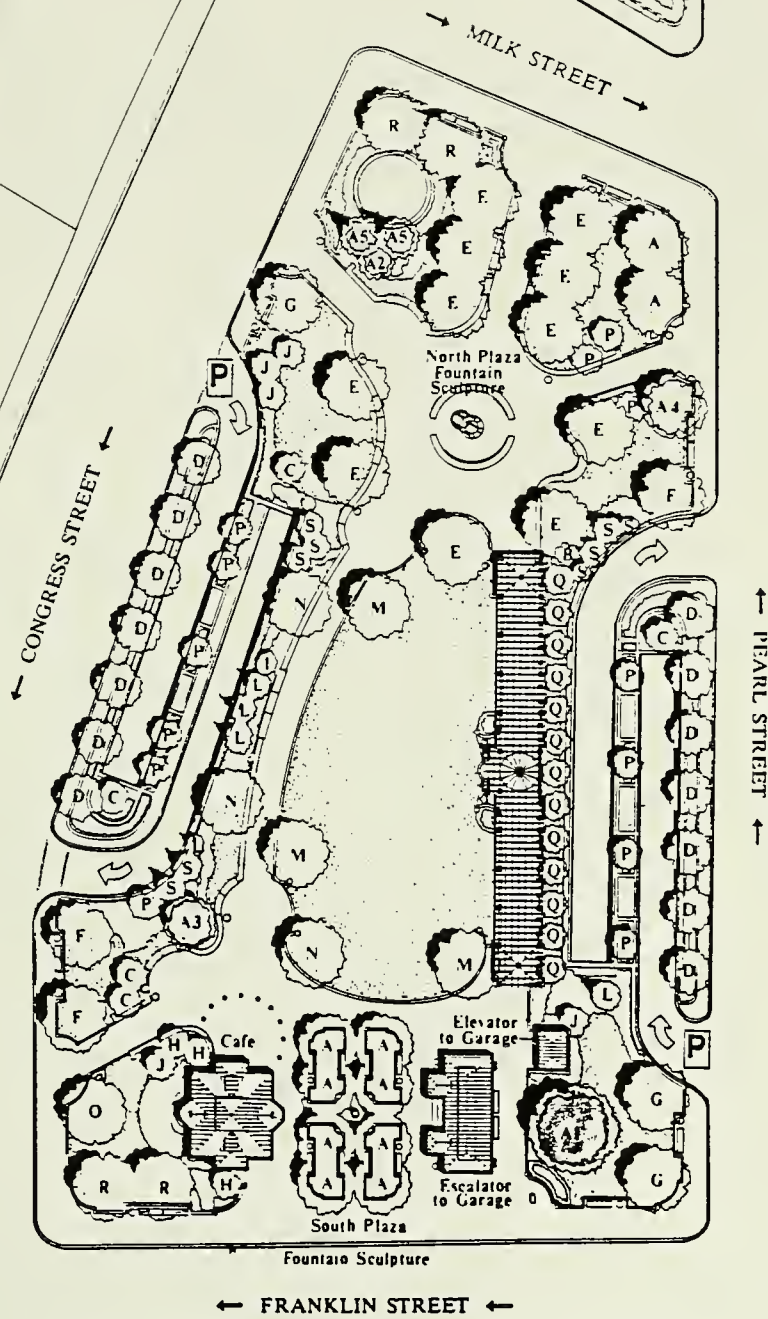
Plant material is the single most important visual element in the park. Trees, shrubs and ground cover are placed to define and reinforce the overall structure of the park, create a series of garden rooms offering the user a variety of experiences and spaces, and frame views of important park elements. Over 125 species of plant materials include a wide variety of trees, shrubs, groundcovers, vines, perennials, bulbs, and annuals. In addition, the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University has permanently loaned six specimen trees from their collection including an Asian White Birch, a Norway Spruce, a Hybrid Red Oak, two Giant Western Arborvitae and an Eastern Arborvitae. On average, these trees were 30 feet tall at the time of transplanting and have given immediate vertical height to the park. The loan of these trees is part of the Arnold Arboretum's commitment to increasing public appreciation in the city of the value of woody plants. The rich horticultural diversity of the park plantings establishes a small, arboretum-like collection of plant materials in downtown Boston. Many of these plantings are labelled for the information and enjoyment of users.



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Post Office Square PARK MAP



A Garden in the City

Post Office Square Park, dedicated in 1961, was conceived, financed, and built by Friends of Post Office Square in cooperation with the City of Boston. The park was designed by The Cultural Center, Inc.

The Park of the Square has over 270 trees of various plants, forming a unique urban forest. All seasons are special, from the early spring when the trees are in bloom, through spring, the flowering trees, shrubs, and bulbs to the colorful beds of herbaceous perennials and annuals of summer. When the perennials show, a color fall comes gives way to the winter garden and the bright berries of winter. Identifying labels and keys to the plants enable visitors to find favorite specimens for use in their own landscapes. Also included in the garden are some famous plants first introduced in the American landscape in the Arnold Arboretum.

Living Art from the Arnold Arboretum

The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and Friends of Post Office Square have entered into a unique partnership in bringing large specimen trees to Post Office Square on permanent loan from the Arnold Arboretum's Living Collections. These trees, some of which have grown at the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain for forty years, include an Asian White Birch, a columnar Norway Spruce, a Hybrid Red Oak, two Western Arbutus, and one Eastern Arbutus. The "loan" of these trees is part of the Arnold Arboretum's commitment to increasing public appreciation of the value of woody plants.

Art in the Park

- North Plaza Fountain/Sculpture
Howard Ben Tr. 1991
- South Plaza Fountain/Sculpture
Howard Ben Tr. 1991
- Ornamental Fence at Garage Ramps and Ornamental Drain Grates
Richard Duro and The Hahson Company, 1990
- Trellis Lighting
Ross Miller, 1991

Trees

A	Amelocarpus Pear	<i>Amelocarpus</i>
B	Arnold Promise	<i>Hamamelis x intermedia</i>
C	Witch Hazel	Arnold Promise *
D	Carolina Silverbell	<i>Halesia virginiana</i>
G	Greenspire Linden	<i>Tilia cordata</i> 'Greenspire'
E	Halka Monnilius	<i>Galium aparine</i> 'Halka'
F	Hardy Rubber Tree	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> *
H	Japanese Pagoda	<i>Sophora japonica</i>
I	Japanese Tree Lilac	<i>Syringa reticulata</i>
J	Japanese Umbrella	<i>Sorbus domestica</i>
K	Pine	<i>Pinus</i>
L	Kousa Dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>
M	Little Leaf Linden	<i>Tilia cordata</i>
N	Norway Spruce	<i>Pinus abies</i>
O	Pin Oak	<i>Quercus palustris</i>
P	October Glory Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i> 'October Glory'
Q	River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>
R	Sargent Crabapple	<i>Malus sargentii</i> *
S	Saucer Magnolia	<i>Magnolia x soulangeana</i>
T	Sweet Gum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
U	White Fir	<i>Abies concolor</i>

Arnold Arboretum Trees

A1	Asian White Birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>
A2	Eastern Arbutus	<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>
A3	Norway Spruce	<i>Pinus abies</i> var.
A4	Hybrid Red Oak	<i>Quercus</i> hybrid
A5	Western Arbutus	<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>

Legend

	Lawn Area		Evergreen Trees
	Annual Flower Beds		Deciduous Trees
	Shrubs, Bulbs and Perennials		Arnold Arboretum Trees

* Trees introduced in the American landscape by the Arnold Arboretum.

